

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application as amended.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as necessary to make minor editorial changes, improve clarity and to correct any alleged informalities. No change in scope is intended and it is respectfully submitted that the claims clearly and patentably distinguish the cited references.

The Examiner has rejected independent Claims 47 and 52 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,768,389 ("Ishii").

As to the rejection of independent Claim 47, in making a 35 USC 102(e) rejection for anticipation, the reference relied upon must teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention. Claim 47 recites, *inter alia*, the construction of a local registration authority and the construction of automating the process. The Examiner has failed to show that the reference teaches the construction of a local registration authority and the construction of automating the process as set forth in the claim. The Examiner cites Ishii column 8, lines 8-24, and Figure 2, however, the cited portions of the reference do not teach the local registration authority or the means for automating the process of generating keys and certificates.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claim 52, the claim has been amended to further clarify the meaning of symmetric keys. A symmetric key, as used by the applicant, is a key that can be used to both encode and decode information. Applicants believe the amended claim distinguishes from Ishii, in that the Ishii reference is strictly limited to asymmetric key systems, whereas claim 52 is directed to a symmetric key system. Additionally, the portion of Ishii (column 1, lines 26-29; column 11, lines 50-67; and column 12, lines 1-46) cited in the rejection of Claim 52

lacks the construction of the local registration authority and the means of automating the process. Thus, in view of the amended claim, the reference does not support the Examiner's position.

The Examiner has also rejected independent Claims 20, 29, and 51 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,370,249 ("VanOorschot").

As to the rejection of independent Claim 20, Applicants believe and submit that the Examiner's assertion that VanOorschot teaches, at column 3, lines 24-33, the limitation of "searching in storage means for at least one subject for which a pair of asymmetric keys and an associated certificate must be created" is in error. At the above-cited location, VanOorschot merely teaches storing a public key and invoking a client cryptographic engine. Specifically, VanOorschot teaches, "Upon receiving the trustworthy public key, the client maintains it in a storage medium associated with a client cryptographic engine. When a client application (e.g., a word processing application, an encryption application, e-mail, html document application, drawing application, or any other type of personal computer software applications) needs a security-related operation (i.e., verification of a signature, and/or retrieval of an authentic public key of another client) to be performed, it evokes the client cryptographic engine." VanOorschot, column 3, lines 24-33. This portion of VanOorschot teaches security related operations, such as verification of signatures or keys. In contrast, claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, the searching of the storage means for a subject for which a key and certificate must be created. Thus, the references do not support the combination on which the Examiner relies and to suggest that the claimed invention would be obvious relies not on what is disclosed in the references, but on applicant's own disclosure. Such hindsight reconstruction is improper.

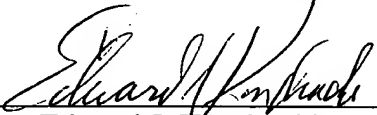
As to the rejection of independent Claim 29, the same argument as made for Claim 20 above applies to Claim 29 as well.

With respect to the rejection of independent Claims 51 and 52, the claims have been amended to further clarify the meaning of symmetric key. A symmetric key, as used by the applicant, is a key that can be used to both encode and decode information. Applicants believe the amended claims distinguish from Ishii, in that the Ishii reference is strictly limited to asymmetric key systems, whereas Claims 51 and 52 are directed to asymmetrical key system. The references cited by the Examiner refer to public/private key cryptosystems, which, in the language of the application, would be considered asymmetric keys and thus does not support the Examiner's position. Additionally, the portion of Ishii, column 11, lines 20-21 and 31-33, cited in the rejection of Claim 51, lacks the construction of the local registration authority and the means of automating the process.

All independent claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the pending claims and early passage of this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,
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